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GELATIN AND NON-GELATIN CAPSULE DOSAGE FORMS

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ABSTRACT

Capsules offer an alternate to tablets for oral delivery of therapeutic compounds. One advantage of capsules over tablets is their amenability to deliver not only solids but also non-aqueous liquids and semisolids as a unit dose solid dosage form. Shell component is an essential part of capsule dosage forms. Capsule shells, available as hard or soft shells, are formulated from gelatin or a non-gelatin polymeric material such as hypromellose and starch, water, and with or without a non-volatile plasticizer. The capsule shells may also be formulated to modify the release of their fill contents in a site-specific manner in the gastrointestinal tract. The goal of the current review is to provide an in-depth discussion on polymeric film forming materials and manufacturing technologies used in the production of capsule shells.

Keywords

Capsules; Gelatin; Hypromellose; Cross-linking; Modified release, Enteric; Stability